

# THE STUMBLING-STONE.

"BEHOLD I LAY IN SION A STUMBLING-STONE AND ROCK OF OFFENCE."

VOL. 4,

White House, Lucas Co., Ohio.

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NO 11

Designed to be published monthly.

If any desire more papers, please specify the number: Contributions cheerfully given for this work will be accepted as from the Lord. Send to LYMAN H. JOHNSON; WHITE HOUSE, Lucas Co. OHIO.

The paper is sent free to all who send us their names, and we pay expenses out of the voluntary contributions we receive.

The paper will be likely to be discontinued to those from whom we do not hear at least once a year.

Write your name, Post Office, county, and state plainly!

This issue has been delayed by sickness.

## OUR TEMPORAL AFFAIRS.

It is my duty to inform all readers that while we preach and publish a free gospel, and trust the Lord for support, that we have no property or means of support but what is freely given us by those who have the Lord's money; and that we are limited in our circulation and promptness by the amount of means received; and that we as a family cheerfully go without many of the comforts and pleasures which our readers enjoy, that we may spread the hated truth. We ask help of no one, but we accept and use for God all that is cheerfully given, whether in money or the necessities of life.

We expect aid of none who do not love the whole truth, which no paper can publish that seeks patronage of men.

Certain brethren have talked of helping us to secure a good press, because the one we have I made myself, without suitable means, and am unable to print books, or any thing larger than a four page tract well, or without great labor and inconvenience. A good power press that will print one thousand per hour, any size needful, can be had for about \$600 or 700 dollars second hand; or \$900, new. A good hand press that will print one thousand per day can be had new for three hundred, second hand one hundred and fifty dollars. Persons desiring to aid this object by contribution or by loan of funds, or of press on conditions, can inform me by letter. I am simply God's agent in the use of such funds.

We have yet on-hand large supplies of the last March and August No. of Stumblingstones for free distribution. Send for all you find readers for.

During my absence from home the past season, my sons have had the responsibility of this paper and letters until now. Praise God for their help. I will attend to the letters myself.

All inside or outside of human organisms, are on the road to an endless hell, who are not now dead to this world, and alive in the despised Christ and to righteousness with a martyr's love and faith!

## A BAD SPIRIT EXPOSED.

Sectarians inform me that this paper shows a bad spirit. Undoubtedly! And so precisely thought all the false prophets of Elijah and all the faithful. So also will all these sectarians think, unless they repent, of Jesus when he laughs at their calamity and mocks at their fears! God forbid that the spirit of this paper should ever become attractive to those who love the mealy mouthed hypocrisy of the whole reputable religious reading of the day! Haters of God can see no beauty in true Holy Ghost writings!

Never, until they repent of the sins I reprove, can any persons love me or my spirit.

## A WORD TO FREE METHODISTS, And Other Radical Sects, From a Heart on Fire With Love!

I have just come up from the borders of the grave, and I have got a new impulse and light from the eternal throne.

I have also just returned from the Free Methodist Conference at Delta, and I have a special message to the above address. In this paper as never before, I exhibit the special sin of the age, the rival, and usurper of Jesus Christ, the last and worst form of idolatry which man ever invented. Read article on Antichrist, and the one that follows it. I am intensely in earnest. Those articles are sharp, but not sharp enough, I fear, to pierce all the deep subtilty of this antichrist. In this connection it is needful to print this message. The Free Methodists suppose that I ought to make an exception in favor of their radical and holy organization, and they wonder why I on the contrary specially attack them in this paper. I now answer this question, for the sake of all the beloved pilgrims in the Free Methodist body, who are perplexed by my special severity toward them and feel that I must be wrong, and of the devil, of I could not oppose so holy a sect, and thus seem to unite with those who hate them for their vices.

I want to be understood. My aim is to explain my seeming changableness and perplexity among them in the past, and strip the devil of a

weapon he is using against the truth I preach.

God is witness that I have not and never have had anything but pure unselfish eye toward all members of this and every sect. There is no enmity nor has there been any on the page of this sheet in the past. I can and do lay down my life, by telling truth that hurts, for all in the sects. God is witness, it is love and ONLY LOVE for your souls, and personally, that has prompted all my severity. O, it has cost me the loss of your love, to tell you the truth! It is genuine love that wields the sword I wield, and makes it cut, and end to the quick. Now hear me! In the Northern States the Free Methodist has been of late the leading reformatory sect, embracing more truth and vital godliness than any other denomination, and has suffered persecution on this account. In some localities the Advents, in other localities the Evangelical, in others the "Church of God," and various sects in different places have been the leading representatives of reform and set claims to a holier religion than the older sects.

Now beloved, hear me. It is not because I do not appreciate and love the truth you advocate, nor the genuine saints among you, that I denounce you more than I do older sects.

No, the Free Methodists would have had no power over me if it was not for the mighty truth, and the genuine work, and the good souls I found among them. This is what nearly swamped me at Delta camp-meeting. My explanation is illustrated thus: One who has designs on my life brings me a plate of the most delicious and wholesome food, but there is in it a fatal poison. Another enemy brings me the same poison but a plate loaded from a dunghill. Which enemy would most reason to dread and expose? The answer is plain. The one who spreads one with love, and abundance of the hooks of pigeons.

You who live the most truth, and the most true saints, and are using these mighty agencies to build up a sect organization which corrupts and destroys souls give me more concern than any other denomination. You catch all honest souls every where, by the truth, and make them idolaters of your system. You catch saints of God and make Free Methodists of them, a character which will not be known in heaven. You impart a false life by the carnal organism, and imperceptibly change the shout and baptism of the Holy Ghost into the carnal and sham shouts and blessings of Free Methodism.

There is a horrible mixture of genuine and false, truth and error, caused by the carnal system. I saw it at Conference. Free Methodism was god there. It was their great annual festival; and glorious truth, and genuine work, and the holiest saints employed to exalt and build up "Our great Jerusalem." No language can describe my feelings as I saw the deep subtilty of the leaders, praising those who make the most converts making this a test of a genuine ministry; converts to God, so it was said, and church secondarily; but the pretense was too flimsy which sought to screen the supremacy of their church! God has got to abide the decisions of the Conference where his ministry among them are to preach, and submit to their supremacy in all things! God's ministry have no more liberty in the F. M. Church, than in the Roman Catholic. They would have pitched me out of that house if I had preached and applied Matt. 23: 4 to 12, and John 10, 1-16 also 13: 34, 35 and 17: 21-23, Mark 7: 7, Rev. 22: 18, 19, and 1 Cor. first four chapters, and the 12 & 13th, and the first half of the Lord's prayer and most of the Scripture. This is not true however of individual ministers and members, for many of them are not yet quite moulded and baked in this Free Methodist pottery. Such is the horrible mixture that I could not tell which are Christ's and which are Free Methodists. But the people in the region where they live well know which among this self exalted sect have got the Bible holiness, and which only F. M. holiness. Their lives tell the story.

The same is true in some degree of Advents, Church of God, Evangelical, and others which have much truth. They catch many honest souls and kill out all their moral life by making them carnal idolaters of man-made systems. The greatest hindrance of God's work to-day, is these most moral

and virtuous denominational craft.

Standing outside of all sects I see their state as no one can who is harmoniously inside any sect.

## THE HYPOCRISY OF THEIR ACCUSATIONS.

One fact deserves special notice of which Free Methodist leaders are not ignorant. They, like all the secret orders and every sect, indorse and receive fully the same individuals while they hope to gain them to their system, whose character they will blacken and destroy in retaliation for their honest exposure of the sect sin. Such is the essential hypocrisy and baseness caused by the idolatrous sect system. I can cite many cases of this kind in the above sect.

God bids me add the notorious fact of this holy sect: that there is not another so covetous for, or skilled to get money out of the people as this sect. At all their meetings they show it, not by pew rents or ring cake festivals, but by the more successful baits of a holier religion, they draw the money! With Jesus, instead of grab bags, true Judas, spiced with carnal jesting, they beat all other sects in the race for money, hence are the most corrupt of all, if the Bible is true.

## Off to The Centennial Show!

I heard some of the leading Free Methodist ministers defend going to that greatest concentration of the world's vanity and idolatry ever known, and their proposed spending the Lord's money for this purpose! Theatres and amusements whose sin is in their art entertainment and which involves all other vice, are but as streams to the ocean compared to this vast centre of art worship, and gambling! Those sanctified preachers who shut down on brass bands, and artificiality now take in the devil's whole exhibition gallery of human vanity and lust! The whole attractions of the Centennial Show, and its whole moral difference from a theatre, from a dance or brothel, is in its worldly respectability. No wonder these preachers are now welcomed by the corrupt churches which once expelled them. Their difference has gone; their former reproach has gone, and the true character of the F. M. organism is being exposed as a trap to catch true saints and yoke them into fellowship with the world. And now while they slander those who preach the truth of their sins, they have in their body, the most noted hypocrites and immoral persons, and also fellowship those churches which are most full of corruption. May God lead out and save from this leaven the many faithful ones in their sect snare.

## RESPECT OF PERSONS. James 2: 9.

No christian can be guilty of it and not repent. To be bound to ministers or members of a sect is to commit this sin. You know it, but what do you care for sin, so long as your god organization is pleased?

## Significance of our political strife.

There is one thing which marks our present political contest as different from any of our past history. It is this: the desperate effort of each party to prove the purity and trustworthiness of its candidate; and to convince the people that if it wins the government offices, it will not rob the public treasury!

In our former history there was some confidence in public men, and other questions were chiefly discussed. Now the foundation issue is: Who is honest, and can be trusted with public money, and will not steal? Such is the extremity this boasted christian nation is reduced to in these days when conscience is in the market, and both church and state are reduced to systems of public plunder. Such is the picture of our politics and religion this Centennial year! Our ministry who are rushing to the great show at Philadelphia, had better stop and look at this greater show which is more pertinent to their high calling and awful responsibility. If the people do not repent, and for damning covetousness in both church and state, substitute righteousness, God will wind up our nation's history in less than ten years, if his past dispensations are any criterion. You need not think by political patch-work of reform to remedy existing corruption! Deep repentance in pulpit and pew, and return to puritan honesty and the fear of God is our nation's only hope! The whole responsibility for the moral rottenness of the times is on the directing ministry of sect Babylon!

# ANTICHRIST.

The mammon power of carnal human organizations.

DONT SHUT YOUR EYES TO FACTS!

READ THIS CAREFULLY THROUGH.

I call your attention to societies which men have made and added to our faith, for which there is not a command, nor description, nor example in the Bible! I believe in the body of Christ, organized by the Holy Ghost as described in 1 Cor. 12, and in all the gospel writings after the Gentiles were included. But I speak now of those societies which divide Christ's organism, and have other names, heads, foundations and doors beside Him alone.

Jesus commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and make men his disciples only, gathering out of all religions of men to his name alone, and one fold, as he and God are one. But there is hardly a square mile of any christian land which is not occupied by one or more religious societies in Christ's name, which would be directly opposed to such a minister fulfilling his commission on their ground! It makes no difference which of the existing denominations occupies the region. I cannot go there and gather converts to Jesus exclusively, without exciting their jealousy and opposition, and being accused of trespassing on their grounds. If I would gather converts into their denominational folds like Moody, then of course I would be welcome even among Catholics, and could preach what I pleased.

I find this to be the state of the whole christian world, so called, at the present time. In every village and district of country I can see a steeple or two which marks the corporate claimants of that portion of God's field. If I want to preach, custom and religious etiquette require me to consult the officials of one of the societies of the place, and of course make my preaching tributary to such society.

Then I am welcome, and deemed orderly, because I am supposed to be on their ground. These societies get their money from the religion of their district. Their ministers have their living from the ground. Custom and tradition have made these societies the only ones in the land. They are the only ones who are recognized by the government. They are the only ones who are allowed to claim Christ's name who is not of this world, and claim the field from him just as a squatter in a new country claims a hundred and sixty acres, and with the same jealousy of their right to the souls of that district as he has to his land, for it is their money; thus literally are the populations of earth divided off as merchandise! Of course like all the money corporations of this world they have to meet with competition. One society cannot occupy the whole ground as it would like to, because a rival comes in, and it has to submit to share the field with other regular societies, and divide the souls as peaceably and favorably as they can. Generally there are more societies than the population has money to support. Now then, the minister of Jesus, with divine commission to preach him alone as the door to the fold in every community, finds himself in the dilemma of one who has jumped another man's land claim! War, of course is declared against him.

O, Jesus Christ has no recognized rights in any, called christian lands, for his ministry; who preach him alone, and preach a salvation as free as air and water! It would utterly spoil every one of these monied corporations of religion. Suppose that in the coal and oil regions a rich man should send out a full supply of coal and oil for all the people free. What would become of all the coal and oil trade companies? Of course every such society would go bankrupt and perish. No corporation could exist if there was no trade. Precisely the same ruin would attend all the religious organizations if the gospel was preached as it was originally, free as air and water. In every community where salvation is free, and all have direct access to Jesus, free from a greedy human priest-hood, meeting only in the His name, it would destroy all these monied sect-organisms which, worse than Rome, incumber God's moral vineyard.

What can you think of religious societies which actually stand in the way of a free Christ in every neighborhood of nominal christendom? What must be the character of such societies? Rivals of Jesus, are they churches of his? Do we read of anything like them in the Bible? Suppose a preacher came to Ephesus, or Rome, or Corinth, and turned the whole population away from all human systems or sects to Christ alone, was there any thing there to make saints in those cities jealous of so glorious a work? No, they had no such damnable party organisms to be jealous over as now exist. It

was only the worshippers of Diana who were jealous. Money was the occasion of their jealousy the same as now in the like idolatrous sects. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and all other party religions, unlike any in Scripture except heathen sects, are the only real powers which oppose the minister of Jesus only, in all the land. The Catholic and the Protestant sects oppose a free gospel on the same ground and for the same reason; their money is concerned, because they have made souls their property and merchandise. Every society of man's organism by its very nature makes property of its members, so that the jealous and selfish "OUR membership," is created, with all its train of lust, strife and idolatry.

## JEALOUSY OF EACH OTHER!

Reader, look at it! How does it compare with Scripture churches? Branches of Christ, jealous of those who preach him as the exclusive door! and JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER! What a lie that such societies are churches of His! Look at the facts every where. Here are two or three religious societies. How did the first society feel when the second one was formed? Take every instance in the world; did it please the officials and members to learn that a new society was to be organized at the same corners just across the way? No verily! What jealousy now! A new minister must be called, a new house built, something attractive to draw the people, and run the new society out! But it is too late! It has got started; the crowd go there. Alas, the old church feels precisely as a banking corporation does when it loses five thousand dollars! What now? Shall they quarrel, and fight? O no, that would be disagreeable; and they have done that already too much, so that the world are disgusted with their ungoverned temper; and they have lost money by it. Many precious souls have gone to the other society. New tactics from necessity are adopted. Now they begin to praise the other society and minister, and invite him to preach for them. Fraternal relations bring up; O how false! Extra blandness and charity are put on outwardly. Just as two business firms failing to run each other out, submit to competition with outward smiles and grace, so do these societies, while within rankles all the time. They are the only ones who are recognized by the government. They are the only ones who are allowed to claim Christ's name who is not of this world, and claim the field from him just as a squatter in a new country claims a hundred and sixty acres, and with the same jealousy of their right to the souls of that district as he has to his land, for it is their money; thus literally are the populations of earth divided off as merchandise! Of course like all the money corporations of this world they have to meet with competition. One society cannot occupy the whole ground as it would like to, because a rival comes in, and it has to submit to share the field with other regular societies, and divide the souls as peaceably and favorably as they can. Generally there are more societies than the population has money to support. Now then, the minister of Jesus, with divine commission to preach him alone as the door to the fold in every community, finds himself in the dilemma of one who has jumped another man's land claim! War, of course is declared against him.

## THE HOLIEST ORGANIZATIONS!

Societies most recently formed, and deemed reformatory and pure, which have just come out of older organizations, are the most deceptive and jealous of any. "Our denomination has put away tobacco, secret societies, the fashions, and adopts holiness; so ours is better than all other organisms," is the vile self and carnal glorying often heard expressed in these peculiar sects, such as the Free Methodist, Albright, Wesleyan, Advent, U. B. and Church of God. "Our Jerusalem is the Bible plan." Such in substance is their boast. And there is not a sect so jealous or exclusive as these are of other denominations or the preaching of Christ alone. They are less willing to own that there is anything good outside of their order than the more openly corrupt organisms. I have found in all my travels, that no denomination is so opposed to my preaching Christ as the exclusive door, as the above named sects. It is true I find a larger number of genuine saints in them, deceived by them, but these sect builders are the most jealous, and deepest idol in sect idolatry because they have the holiest idol. They are the most conscientious in the trade of souls, because they furnish a purer religion, as they suppose; so they would not scruple to run out every other sect, especially a free salvation outside their holy system. So it is, the purer the organism, the more certain it is to be idolized, and the more jealous of any rival and the more squarely opposed to Jesus alone. How overwhelming the proof that the organism is essentially evil and of the devil!

You and your fathers have come to reverence these organisms by custom. So have the heathen their gods. But custom will be no excuse at the Judgment, for turning from the fountain of living waters, to these broken cisterns of man's invention!

## THIS MAMMON POWER EXAMINED.

As you value the undying soul, I beseech you look at these man-made churches of God, which are so greedily embracing all the souls they can catch, professedly for their good, but too manifestly for selfish ends!

Let a revival of religion take place, and there nev-

er was greater certainty when gold diggings are found that a swarm of speculators will be on hand to buy up all claims, than that all surrounding sects will have their agents at the revival to get the converts, especially the rich ones. You know these are the facts. A revival broke out in a certain district in York state. Many were converted to Jesus alone. An F. M. minister was promptly there, a cheerful helper. But soon he made propositions which betrayed his character. He offered the Bride of Jesus another lover besides, but was spurned from her embrace. He proposed to form an F. M. class but was rejected, for these converts had Jesus only, and continued to be a power for God and a terror to the wicked of that region. That holy sect, as all other organisms of man's, was robbed of their expected gains from this revival. This however is a rare instance in modern revivals.

We now take the common, almost universal experience. Fifty souls are converted at a school-house meeting in a country district. Every society in the neighborhood is on hand at the close of the meeting. God's work now ends and man's begins. The Holy Spirit so earnestly prayed for at the outset, before there was any other object thought of, is now insulted and grieved away by the organization jealousy which comes in. "Our church must be built up." The sect that was most active in the meetings expects the chief share of converts, and is sorely disappointed if it fails. How attentive now they are to each convert. They never received so much love before. Nor do the members of the different organisms have so much love for each other, just now, as for these souls they are after. If one organization gets all the converts, what exultation and rejoicing of ministers and members! What is the nature of their joy? Is it any holier than the bitterness and envy of the disappointed rivals? Suppose there is no competition. One society gets all the gains, sweeps the whole country, as Rome once was alone in the earth, is it any better, holier, more spiritual than a dozen little societies fighting like cats and dogs over the converts? No, manifestly not. That selfish organization, which is gratified by undisputed gain of souls, is not one whit better than a soured disappointed one, or a dozen greedy, jealous, quarrelling organizations which are vexed because they are not gratified with the same. Do you not see the principle of selfishness of all the strife? If the organization was of God, could jealousy be possible? Would revivals break up in a row, between sect societies, after the converts, if they were holy, and were branches of the same vine, and had the same God? Most certainly not. They are all proved to be of the devil because they are essentially selfish, rivals to each other, and cannot possibly exist without jealousy and every evil passion, where souls are to be divided among them. Even when they harmonize outwardly, their hypocrisy is worse than their open quarrel, because they only deceive, while their very devotion to their organism has in it all the principles of envy, covetousness, strife, and murder, which belongs to any system of idolatry and anti-christ.

Whoever knew two or more rival societies to harmonize truly, genuinely? They may, if both are rich and full, and have no souls to quarrel about. But every one knows that no monied corporation of earth is as likely to show jealousy, partiality and selfishness generally where there is a rival, as every religious society. It is seen in flings from the pulpit, in the tattling and gossip of members, comparing "Our preacher, our church" etc. with the other sect. It is seen in the zeal for the tallest steeple, and most attractive house and services. If Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of God, and Free Methodist are in a place, mark this: you can talk against every other denomination but one, and that denomination will be pleased, and let you preach, unless you go so far as to hurt that society. The Church of God sect claims to embrace the whole, yet it leaves out all believers, who do not take their interpretation of God's word off outward rites instead of God's own interpretation of his commands. If I preached their interpretation of the word on outward rites, and denied the right of any child of God to his own honest understanding to the contrary, from other Scripture, then I would be sustained by that sect, while I attacked with the greatest vehemence all other organisms. Just so with the Free Methodist and Adventists. In the M. E., Presbyterian, and Baptist organisms it would be less so. Yet, if in a respectable manner, with polite thrusts so as to not hurt their reputation, I would afford each pleasure by annihilating all other denominations but its own.

Such is the essential nature of these organizations of man, called churches of Christ. Such are their



Hearts toward each other, while they hypocritically profess union and harmony, and "christian" fellowship before the world!

Is it strange that infidelity abounds in these times with such an exhibition of what purports to be Bible christianity? Do you think that the "corruptions of Rome in the 16th century, when the trade in indulgences was at its height, and priestcraft drove the thinking mind of France and England into the awful whirlpool of Atheism and the reign of terror, is equal to this abomination of a hundred and more rival popedom, each just like Rome in its carnality, scrambling for money and power in every city, town, and school district; each jealous of the other in defiance of every principle and idea and remotest shade of the original faith of Jesus; think you that this has nothing to do with the horrible infidelity of our times, and the utter moral rottenness of society? Will you uphold these carnal petty popedoms in their contemptible struggle for numbers, money, and religious supremacy? Will you build these false bodies of Christ which will be burned, and which will be unknown in heaven, at the expense of souls they peril?

What security for souls is a society which is essentially selfish and makes sectarianism, partiality, and all heart corruption necessary? What a nursery for souls is an organism which is greedy for souls to make gain of them? Every man or woman who joins it becomes money. He is worth so many dollars towards a meeting-house and parsonage, salaries, quarterages, annuities, donations, and all the damnable merchandise of Babylon!

The words **OUR MEMBERSHIP, YOUR MEMBERSHIP**, means property. And every organization is jealous with precisely the same heart over each member, as the miser is over his bags of gold, or any speculator over his stock in trade. In every society, Judas is formally established in his trade of Jesus Christ, and gets his thirty pieces of silver in quarterages, and annuities! Festivals, tableaux, money-begging, picnics and the whole brood of covetousness from the pit are the "necessary" offspring of these organisms of Mammon.

Their power in this christian land is as great as the power of Rome ever was in Europe, except that their countless divisions prevent the same concentration for the extinction of truth. But in every community they do, by slander and lies, or any other means possible, to destroy any minister of Jesus who is not of their sect. If I take Moody and Hammond and other tools of Anti-christ, would swell these societies with converts, I would be canonized by papal protestantism as an apostle, but to gather out of them all to Christ alone, secures me the reputation of a devil incarnate.

#### THE REASONS GIVEN FOR ORGANIZATIONS.

The honest reason of these societies would be that a monied contract is stronger than the love of God or the bonds of the Spirit, so that believers can be kept in their religion whether dead or alive. They go upon business principles, and apply the same rules as to any other stock in trade, or value. The business transaction which constitutes a sect church organization may stated thus: We will give you a meeting-house, regular preaching, class leaders and a full set of church officials, all needed meetings, festivals and entertainments if desired, all in the latest style, PROVIDED that you pay your quarterages, subscriptions and all the money you can, and more besides, while you have these privileges.

The loss sustained by not having the organization bonds is this: Liability to go without some or all the above regular services, the necessity of looking to God for preaching and all spiritual help, instead of Conference and a human priesthood; and the necessity of meeting in the school-house or dwelling, or alone with Jesus, having no bond to the church but love and the Holy Ghost. You see the choice is between soul help secured by money on one hand, and that which is secured by self-sacrificing love and the Holy Spirit on the other hand. The first is the devil's plan of keeping souls; the last is the Bible plan of salvation by faith.

O don't you see the cunning of the devil in these sect organisms? How plausible to have regular worship and all appurtenances supplied, without having to trust God or feel any care about the soul, simply by regularly paying our quarterages! How easy these crutches and pillows of carnal organisms! How easy salvation is made! The only exercise of faith is for God's blessing on the Mammon machinery! Men turn the crank with their money and the cause moves forward and sinners are converted, O how easily! The reproach of Christ is gone; the cross is gone. This carnal system shuts out the cross, and the gospel fan! The Holy Ghost is shut out by man's system; His mouth-pieces are shut out.

No child of God has liberty to tell the whole truth in any human organism! No liberty for God, nor real faith in him for soul security! Pure religion dies out. A false fire is on the altar. Revivals spread and converts are made more easily than if the cross was preached. But man power and another spirit beside the Holy Spirit moves this work and the world is deceived!

Such is the state of the whole religious world to day, and awful supremacy of Anti-christ! Jesus of Nazareth reigns truly only in the breast of scattered pilgrims who are despised and ignored, and not reckoned at all in the church history men now write. What is called church history is mostly of Babylon and anti-christ corporations. Christ's church has no history except of individual saints and their work, and this has been very defectively and untruthfully written since the Bible record.

Now beloved, will you sell your soul to a monied corporation called a church, but which is anti-christ, and contrary to all Scripture example or authority? Will you become property to a system of priestcraft so that they can recon on you as so much money toward the meeting-houses and salaries of a worldly religious society falsely called Christ's? And so that they can be gratified carnally in you just as a coal or banking company is gratified by a money speculation? Will you become the property of a Baptist, Methodist, Free Methodist or other corporation, incorporated by the state just like every business or banking co., whether B. T. Roberts & co., or Simpson & co. or Presbyterian co. etc.? Will you thus sell your soul to these monied concerns which for filthy lucre will furnish regular reputable gospel machinery all appointed, invented, regulated and controlled by man instead of the Holy Ghost, yet falsely claiming the Spirit, and to be a branch of Christ? Dare you thus deny Jesus by joining his deadly rival? Will you take the name and mark of the beast at the awful hazard of God's wrath? O my beloved, save your soul from this Anti-christ! And be content with Jesus alone, and never doubt that God will provide all the spiritual help you need if you are faithful to the light he gives you, and meet for worship in Christ's name only, and no sect or man-made corporation. Better worship alone, or with two or three in Jesus' name, than with the multitude under the seducing power of the Harlot!

The Son of Man's Church. A writer in the West, who possibly sees the light of getting up a religious society and calling it a church. He thinks each of the existing sects got up by different sectaries, and incorporated by the governments, and owning millions of property, earthly corporations with Christ's name, are all right, and are just like the New Testament churches. He supposes the church of Ephesus, Rome, Corinth was just such a sect society got up by Paul, Peter, or some other man. Although there is no account in Scripture of any such organization, yet he takes it for granted that after sinners believed, after they had by faith entered Christ the door, and were in God's fold, that Paul told them of another door which he and Peter had got up, which they must also enter to be full members of the church of Ephesus! His authority is that he thinks so, which I ought to accept as conclusive. Paul had drawn up the writings, laid down the conditions, prescribed the form of admittance, and they must enter by this door, or else be called outsiders of God's visible church. Although Jesus said if they entered any other door besides himself they "Are thieves and robbers" (John, 10:1.) yet Paul instructed them that Jesus did not mean what he said, but had specially permitted men to get up as many doors as they pleased.

So our correspondent from the West sees no sin in all this, and calls me anti-christ for denouncing all other doors besides Jesus. He thinks Anti-christ is that self-exalting, sour-minded spirit which is so jealous for Christ as to denounce all inventions of men in His name, calling them sin per se. This is a new idea of anti-christ. But this California writer assumes to be right, and deals with terrible bitterness against my bitterness for Jesus alone. He thinks it is a beautiful idea to have a little variety in God's kingdom, and jealously, and vehemently defends the multiplied bodies of Christ which wise men have constructed.

He seems to think it possible to be a christian outside of these party pens, but yet believes them to be a good thing, and not sinful, and that it is anti-christ to denounce them and set myself up against the wise fathers of these different bodies of Christ! Yet he claims to be in Christ the door, and at the same time he is not a member of these folds! And there is not a believer in Christ on earth but what is outside of every fold of man's make, except one,

and I am outside of all, just one more than every sect member. In Christ yet outside these folds! They must have other doors besides Jesus, every one of them. Besides, the majority in every one of these sect folds are not in Christ the door. Double proof that Christ is not the door to one of these man-made churches. His own words are that all who have entered by any other door but himself are thieves and robbers. Thieves and robbers are sinners per se! But this California saint says it is not so. Either Jesus tell a falsehood or this man out West. Who shall we believe? He will call me bigoted and of the devil if I say that Christ is true and he is a liar. He thinks it is no sin to join a church called Christ's church of which Jesus is not the door, nor head, nor foundation, nor bridegroom, nor vine, but some man. Hence he thinks it no sin to indorse a lie and a counterfeit. The most stupendous of all lies this world ever saw, a false body of Christ, a church of his of which he is neither author, head, foundation, nor anything else, to him is no sin!

Poor man! I envy not his conscience. He may think me intolerant because I cannot call this iniquity virtue; because I denounce and abhor every man-made door just as Jesus does, and call it sin to seek any other church security but Christ alone. Yet I prefer this charge of intolerance and harshness, to his utter loss of conscience, and want of love and jealousy for the Great Bridegroom, the only head, door, foundation, etc. to his church. I can pray for God to have mercy on his soul, and enable him to see what sin is, the abominable idolatry and unbelief, heaven-daring wickedness of all the man-built folds and kingdoms called by Christ's name. I would just as soon have the Pope at Rome my vicar instead of Christ, as any other man appointed bishop, or organized government of men's in Christ's name. There is no difference. I had rather come under one pope than more, or than majority popes, or any Prote-tant papal system whatever. I would go back to Rome and done with it, sooner than profess the lie of Protestantism while I had some bishop or Methodism for my pope, or a board of Presbyterian or "Church of God" sect popes, or worse than all, the majority popes of "Congregationalism." Majorities are always more likely to err in religion than minorities. I would sooner have one tyrant of conscience than a multitude.

But this California writer sees no sin in all this, and calls me anti-christ and sees basin in it. When let him go to Cardinal de Clossy, or Roberts, or Hart, or Simpson, or Beecher with his Congregational clan; they are all the same man exalting God-defying Mystery of iniquity! For myself I prefer Christ alone. I will have no other head, foundation, door nor name. I abhor and denounce all rivalry to him as worse a hundred fold than any other sin which ever saw the light of the sun.

God's children are many of them in this Babylon, converted there by the truth, in spite of the popery and anti-christ to which they have ignorantly submitted. But God now says: "Come out of her my people that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev 18: 4.

#### DISHONESTY A NECESSITY OF THE ORGANISMS.

There is not a preacher in any sect who preaches in every particular as he would if he honestly followed his own convictions from Scripture, and had no bias from his sect and its training. Nor would any member have got his sect ideas from Scripture if he had never learned them from his sect. O the damnable soul despotism of human organisms!

#### The tour West.

About the 18th of July I left home, after a rest of two weeks from my journey East, and came first to Arcola Ill. where once was a band of twenty or more in Jesus alone, by removals and fanaticism now reduced to less than a half a dozen. The fanaticism consisted in dispensing with prayer, except when the spirit moves; which means when they feel like it, hence God's most prominent law is virtually set aside. They claim to pray in secret, of which there can be no proof. They visibly disregard God. Dissolution of the church follows of course. Rejecting all brethren who do not submit to this delusion, and who are judged to be carnal, by discerners who are self-exalted lords, themselves more carnal than those they reject, is the next step in the delusion, and thus they are divided and scattered, or driven to worse error.

#### A SPECIAL WARNING TO PILGRIMS!

O spiritual pride, when it gets in a brother and moves him to purge the church, then look out! Satan comes among pilgrims this way, more than any other. A dividing spirit, which judges and rejects by a standard which would condemn the judge himself,

and a perfection unknown to earth, is the devil's most deceitful and destructive agency among the faithful. It scattered a pilgrim band under the roof of the Alarm, and is endeavoring to spread the same division in Ill. and Penn. There are many young men, and women also, who start in the old way of faith, but get lifted up, and imagine themselves prophets and reformers because of their new light, at once begin by printing press, or tongue, or both, to set every body else right; and by their inexperience mistaking their own spirit, vain of new doctrines true or false, they divide and destroy the flock of Christ. May the Lord save the pilgrims from too hastily receiving a "Novice," that is one inexperienced in the work, or running after every new preacher, or publisher, or person claiming superior gifts or light. First prove them by the word, and then support and uphold the proved and tried, who are not dividers, but builders of the true spiritual church. It is one thing to honestly and faithfully expose and reprove all sin and error among pilgrims; but it is another thing and of the devil to make the faults and carnality which all saints are liable to, the ground of strife and division. "If a brother be overtaken in a fault ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted." Whoever teaches or practices the contrary is false and dangerous, and we are commanded to avoid and reject them. Rom. 16, 17; and Titus 3, etc.

On July 24 came to Jacksonville, had a glorious meeting on the park. hundreds heard and with deep feeling indorsed the whole truth I preach. From there I came to Whitehall, where John V. Ehey has almost alone with Jesus, lived and labored these many years for the old despised Bible faith. We held the camp-meeting as appointed. We got just as many converts as Jesus did when he preached at Nazareth. Some said they never heard the gospel before, which was probably true. Multitudes were interested and more deeply convicted of sin than any converts of Moody's revivals. But I had to close when I had just begun. Next, I preached by request at the village of Glasgow, near by; then came to a free camp-meeting in Fulton co. near Bryant, held by Marshman and Binders, who are outside of all sects, except that pretty large one which gives up vocal prayer except when they feel like it, which is not often, naturally, unless it be some intelligent hypocrite who knows what true saints do, and takes them for fools. These are the chief enemies to the cross. But few pilgrims as yet have fallen in to this delusion. For three days I heard no prayer but one, on the camp-ground! I should not have thought it a religious meeting but for the preaching and singing which had some carnal gratification in it, or it would have been as silent as their prayers. Aside from prayer their preaching was orthodox, but there was the fatal absence of moral conviction and the felt presence of God. How could it be otherwise? From here I went to Keota, Keokuk co. Iowa where is Bro. Isaac Winter and some others who love the truth, and held meetings a week. An F. M. preacher appointed a meeting the evening before, to warn the people against me, reporting the usual slanders circulated by the F. M. paper. But it only worked to his injury and the ruin of Free Methodism there. The pains this sect takes to destroy my character, every where works to my advantage and the disaster of a cause which depends on slander and retaliation for its defense. Praise God! He says: "No weapon formed against thee shall prosper." I, of course, always except those true saints who are in that sect, but not of it, and at heart are with "Christ outside the camp." From there I came to Talyrand by request, preached twice, then came to a Free Methodist camp meeting. Here I confess with sorrow, I acted Jonah. A brother requested me to engage, not to touch the sctt idol, because it would make immense trouble, and he would sooner take up his tent and go home, than seem abused by his preachers, as he said I would be; if I told the whole Bible truth. The object of that meeting was, not to know the mind and will of God about themselves, but to have a rousing time, and get converts. I barely yielded because he was an old friend; and I might thus be conciliated to the Lord. Sad mistake! So I ran away from that meeting as Jonah did from Nineveh! The Lord followed me in his displeasure. I was caught in a shower on leaving the ground and just missed the needed train, had to sit out doors that night, locked out of a depot, and short of money for the first time in my travels. Preached on the street at Burlington, wicked men and devils mocked. "On the steamer, took deck passage, sat on a pile of bags, held onto my satchels to keep them from thieves who had stolen my umbrella, and there preached the terrors of the Lord and sang hymns through the night to as wicked a crowd of men as any penitentiary contains. The thieves conscience stricken, brought back my um-

brella, and all showed many other signs of awakened conscience. Next day arrived at Quincy Ill., found some in sympathy with the the truth, who were once free, but who by experience of fanaticism were frightened back into sect folds for safety. One brother is outside, and rejects all who do not come out of Babylon. I cannot reject one in whom Christ dwells any where. But O how unfaithful I have been at times by failing to warn those in sect Babylon! Sunday evening I preached over two hours on the Court House steps, told the whole truth, at the last my strength gave way and I left, but the crowd seemed riveted by the awful truth, and slow to move away. Next morning I left for home. But the hand of the Lord was on me for my unfaithfulness. I see it now as I have not before. The bloody flux seized me and brought me near to death. With difficulty I reached home, where for a month I have been slowly regaining. And now from another glimpse of eternity I address my unwelcome messages once more to the F. M. and other sects, to save my own soul from the burning wrath of a jealous God! I am compelled to choose between the jealousy of sect priests, and the fury of the Great Jehovah!

### THE FAMILY ALTAR; OF VOCAL PRAYER:

BY BURNELL D. JOHNSON.

Concerning this vital element of the Christian's life it would seem entirely unnecessary and superfluous to speak, had not the arch deceiver been so marvelously successful in blinding and drawing into his power some who were formerly Christ's friends, through the neglect or denunciation of this sweet, familiar, social communion with our common Father. There is certainly no end which he would endeavor more earnestly to obtain than to close the channels of communication between the Christian's soul and the source of all his strength, or to induce him to interrupt his regular seasons of private and social intercourse with God, Dan. vi; 10. For if this is conceded there is nothing which may not follow. How perilous then is his situation! Powerless and blind in the hands of Satan!

The means through which this disastrous design is effected appears to be first the denial and formal worship of those who make long prayers to be seen of men, and then the denial of the Christian's duty to God, and of Paul that we should pray without ceasing, etc. which in connection with the drift of the New Testament are in reality the most conclusive proof of the duty of actual, literal, talking with God, but which Satan would interpret to exclude all vocal and audible prayer. But that any person who has proved by experience its value and importance, yea its necessity, in the maintenance of spiritual life, and in the salvation of the family, should listen to, or for a moment entertain such an insinuation, is the most astonishing fact in this connection. Contradicted as it is by all Scripture precept and example, as well as experience of all God's children for the past 1800 years.

In my own case there is no spot associated with my past experience upon which my mind looks back with such feelings of gratitude and thankfulness to God, and upon which more than anything else, as I believe under God, hinges all my present prospects for eternity; as "That place than all beside more sweet, It is the blood bought mercy seat." Banish it from under our roof and all the peace and happiness which true religion affords would be banished with it. Our household would become of all on earth most miserable and wretched! I have repeatedly marked this that upon a single absence from our regular seasons of family worship, under the plea of haste, etc., as Sir Matthew Hale once remarked concerning the same occurrence; "Nothing goes well all day," and at evening such a faintness and leanness of soul would be felt as I shall not willingly experience again.

I will here notice some instances of the effects of sincere, heartfelt worship upon the impenitent, which are on my mind. Upon one occasion during my father's absence, a stranger, a professor of religion, chanced to be present during our family devotions. After worship we engaged in conversation concerning practical godliness, which he soon acknowledged he did not possess, but told how he had enjoyed it, and also expressed a desire to return to the "Old paths." But alas he had become entangled in the fatal meshes of spiritualism! Upon my mother's inquiring the place or means of his leaving the "Good old way" he replied he did not know, unless it was in the renouncing of vocal prayer. "Which?" continued he "I" a long considered, as only a vain form, but here, I see, your prayers appear to be real and heartfelt."

I might mention many such instances, but one

more will suffice. An avowed disbeliever of the Bible, a man of over four score years, stayed at our house one night, this was also during my father's absence, he had some conversation advancing his infidel sentiments of course, previous to family worship. After worship he said with emotion; "Well I have lived for more than eighty years, but I never, NEVER saw such a scene as this, I believe I'm wrong after all! O, that I had this religion!" Or words to that effect.

O, you who are fearful of making the worship of God formal, the best antidote I can recommend for you is to become filled with the love of God, and then "out of the abundance of the heart" the mouth will speak, and there will be no more danger of formality than in the expression of happiness at meeting a dear friend. Any person who can deliberately charge a child of God with hypocrisy or formalism in the simple outpourings of a heart of love to Christ in public or private prayer, is to say the least an enemy of God, and His Christ and His revealed plan of salvation! He has the same grounds for charging Christ with hypocrisy, at the grave of Lazarus, for praying to be seen of men ("Because of the people that stand by I said it" see John 11th. Or Paul when "he gave thanks to God in the presence of them all" there were two hundred and seventy six souls present, most of whom were doubtless impenitent persons.

The articles by my sons have all been prepared by themselves with no aid or suggestion from me. L. H. J.

The following letters from York co. Penn. are from a field I visited where for five years the work of the Lord has been prospering outside of all human organizations, in Christ's name only. They have many places of meeting and souls are frequently added to the Lord, and to Him only. In the adjoining counties are also such meetings of forty years standing, yet alive, while sect organizations of recent growth are all dead around them.

### LETTERS FROM BRETHREN.

Felton, York co. Pa. Aug. 25. Dear Brother Johnson, I feel like writing you this evening. Although we are strangers to each other personally, I cannot but believe we have one the same Spirit, and thus claim you as one of Christ's little ones.

I have at different times read your paper, and think very much of the truth there set forth. It was first brought to my neighborhood by Bro. Hoffer, about four years ago. That dear good man was an instrument in the hands of God of leading me to the blessed Savior. After suffering great agony on account of sin for over six months I was delivered and set free in the liberty of God's dear children. On the 4th of June I changed in my late a minister of the Gospel, and when opportunity offered, and intend to spend my life doing good and preaching Christ and Him crucified. I often take a trip with Bro. Hoffer, and we spend many happy times together. He is a faithful old soldier for Jesus.

The camp-meeting that was in contemplation when you was here, commenced Aug. 3d, and closed the 10th. It was a glorious meeting, characterized by the presence of God in might and power. There were 11 tents: Perfect peace and harmony prevailed during the week, although the evil one tried to destroy and create division. It was a struggle to part from such a dear people where it appeared as in the days of the apostles, when they had all things common. But we look for a time when God will assemble his people at a meeting that will never end. I. H. Painter. See Sept. No.

Brother Newton's tracts ought to be scattered world wide. His books ought to be in every family. He desires me to say that his first publications contain some passages which, with his increased light he would change. But there is nothing hurtful, and there is much in every book and tract adapted to instruct young and old in social and every duty, abhorrence of all sin, and knowledge of Scriptural holiness. The charge for them is only necessary postage and cost of publication.

### Tracts by D. F. Newton.

Since our dear brother Newton, in his advanced age, feels unable to do more publishing, he has put his stereotype plates in our possession, and henceforth his valuable tracts will be issued from this office. Those wanting any of his useful and readable tracts, and applying for them at the address of the Stumbling-Stone can obtain them. His "Pictic Religion" exposing the church frolics of the day, of 16-pages, can be had, two dollars per hundred copies besides postage. Tracts on novel reading, Beecher, Dickens, and those for every class, old and young. We will give the titles of a few of them. "A Bad Boy under discipline," 4 pages 50 cts per hundred copies, extra extracts at proportionate rates, postage extra. "Popular Works of Fiction," "Lightness of speech, words to no profit," "On the choice of companions," "Greatest work," "Nothing to pray," "Gambling and Gambling," "A Snake in the Grass," "Wide awake and Popular," "Satan in Satan out, in the pulpit in the press," "Crucifying the Lord of glory," "Turns doings," "Spitting folks, folks that spit," "Kindling heavenly fires," "Chit-chats with Dr. Ball," "Falling into the trap of Satan," "The Adulterer and Free-lover," "The right Eye Sin; Or Pleading for Baal," etc.

### A LOOKING-GLASS FOR

Henry Ward Beecher,

A book by D. F. Newton, exposing Beecher as a criminal and false teacher, can be had at this office, Whitehouse, for twenty-five cents.